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DRABA APRICA IN OKLAHOMA

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It is often said among botanists that rare plants receive an unwarranted amount of attention and by and large this appears to be true. Some of the stimulus for this is to be associated with the attraction of novelty for its own sake but I am convinced that a real desire to make rarities more generally known or to clear up doubtful information is often basic to the attention given. A case in point as to the latter has to do with *Draba aprica* Beadle. This little annual crucifer was first discovered by Thomas Nuttall in Arkansas in 1819 and later published for Nuttall by Torrey and Gray (1838) as *Draba brachycarpa* Nutt. *β fastigiata* Nutt. The same plant was found on Kenesaw Mt., near Marietta, Georgia, and described for Beadle by Small (1913) as *D. aprica* without reference to the earlier varietal name of Nuttall.

When Fernald (1934) was working on *Draba* in the early 1930's, he stimulated L. M. Perry to search for this species on Kenesaw Mt., since it had not been recollected in the in-

tervening years. The results were two collections by Perry and Myers in May, 1934. In his writeup of *D. aprica*, Fernald (l.c.) raised the question as to whether *D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata* and *D. aprica* were one and the same thing. The problem at that time also involved the question as to whether the material of Nuttall described as var. *fastigiata* really came for Arkansas or was an inadvertent mixture, on the same sheet at the New York Botanical Garden, of Georgia material from other collections. Fernald assumed that the specimen at New York is the type (holotype) of *D. brachycarpa* and that the type (holotype) of var. *fastigiata* is on the same sheet. Just to put the record straight in one respect, the holotype of *D. brachycarpa* is at the British Museum. A photograph of it and an isotype are in the Gray Herbarium. The holotype of *D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata* should also be at the British Museum but I was unable to find it there on one of my visits. Perhaps the New York specimens are, in fact, the holotype in the latter case. Although he was wrong about the actual location of the holotype of *D. brachycarpa*, Fernald did call attention to the need of a search for *D. aprica* (*D. brachycarpa* var. *fastigiata*) in Arkansas to clear up the confusion as to the area of origin of Nuttall's material.

Steyermark (1940) came through with the discovery of *Draba aprica* in the Ozarks of southeastern Missouri, demonstrating that the species still occurs in territory at least adjacent to that of Nuttall's travels. If any doubt remains that the plant might occur where Nuttall went on his famous excursion up the Arkansas River, it should be completely dispelled by a collection made by Kenton Chambers and me in 1957. We had stopped a few miles north of Broken Bow in extreme southeastern Oklahoma to try for cytological material of the then recently described *Streptanthus squamiformis* Goodman (1956). In the same area with the *Streptanthus* on an open knoll sparsely covered with dwarfed oaks and pines, we found more than a dozen plants of *Draba aprica*. In the collection (*Rollins and Chambers 5762*, 3.7 miles north of Broken Bow, McCurtain Co., Oklahoma,

April 13, 1957; GH), we inadvertently included two plants of *D. brachycarpa*. Our collecting experience with these two species was similar to that of Nuttall, who one hundred and thirty-eight years earlier had mixed the two species in a collection that was primarily *D. brachycarpa*, with only a few plants of *D. aprica* included. Steyermark (l. c.) similarly found *D. brachycarpa* and *D. aprica* growing at the same site. Aside from showing that *D. aprica* is to be included in the Oklahoma flora, our collection is notable in that it is the only one since Nuttall's day from the area where he originally found it.

Hitchcock (1941) has suggested that *Draba aprica* is indeed only a variety of *D. brachycarpa*, as originally proposed by Nuttall and published by Torrey and Gray. However, I disagree with this conclusion. The larger and fewer seeds; the more elongate, densely pubescent instead of glabrous siliques; the characteristic shortened branches and condensed infructescences; and the dentritic instead of cruciform trichomes of the leaf-surfaces are all distinctive features of *D. aprica*. A further suggestion that *D. aprica* might be a polyploid form because of the larger fruits and seeds seems unwarranted in view of the fact that the trichomes are much smaller than in *D. brachycarpa* and might with the same justification be interpreted as evidence for the opposite viewpoint. — GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

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